

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KIGALI 01410 220249Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 INR-07 CIAE-00

DHA-05 /063 W

-----085642 220256Z /72

R 211207Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5385

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 1410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, UG, UK

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE IN UGANDA OF BRITISH SUBJECT MARK ELIAS

REF: (A) KIGALI 984, (B) KIGALI 1144, (C) STATE 194102, (D) LONDON

13601

1. ON OCTOBER 20 I CALLED ON UGANDAN CHARGE ABDALLA, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM SEVERAL WEEKS' STAY IN UGANDA. ABDALLA SAID HE HAD INQUIRED OF UGANDAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNING DISAPPEARANCE OF ELIAS FROM KAMPALA LAST MAY, AND THAT HE WAS TOLD THERE IS NO INFORMATION ON THE MATTER. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, THERE WAS NO FURTHER ACTION HE COULD TAKE. ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE REGRET THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION TO TRANSMIT TO US. I TOLD HIM THAT WE INTENDED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER BY AVAILABLE MEANS. ABDALLA MENTIONED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF INQUIRIES IN THIS CASE MADE BY BRITISH AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS IN ADDITION TO OUR OWN INFORMAL EFFORT. HE URGED THAT USG DIRECT FUTURE EFFORTS THROUGH PROTECTING POWER, FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT IF HE WERE TO PURSUE MATTER ANY FURTHER, HE MIGHT ATTRACT SUSPICION TO HIMSELF.

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2. OCCASIONAL RUMORS REACHING US ENCOURAGE THE HOPE THAT ELIAS MAY BE ALIVE IN A UGANDAN PRISON. WE CONSIDER IT URGENT THAT ALL POSSIBLE STEPS BE TAKEN TO KEEP CASE BEFORE UGANDAN AUTHORITIES IN AN EFFORT TO PERUSADE THEM TO HANDLE THIS DISAPPEARANCE IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER. EMBASSY WONDERS WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO APPROACH GOVERNMENTS MORE DIRECTLY INTERESTED (UK, CANADA) AND PERHAPS INTERNATIONAL ORGS (UNDP/

UGANDA?) OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES (ICRC?) TO COORDINATE FURTHER
EFFORTS. WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND
AND DETAILS IF DESIRED. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. DRAFTER: CHARGE/LESSER.
LESSER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771034/aaaabdan.tel
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, UG, UK, US, (ELIAS, MARK)
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